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SENECIO PLANT NAMED 'SUNSENERAPI'

BOTANICAL/COMMERCIAL CLASSIFICATION

Senecio cruentus x *Senecio heritieri*/Senecio Plant

VARIETAL DENOMINATION

5 cv. 'Sunsenerapi'

BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of *Senecio* plant named 'Sunsenerapi'. 'Sunsenerapi' is a distinct and unique variety, which is a dome-shaped plant with abundant branching, light purplish pink flowers, and a long blooming term.

There are many varieties of *Senecio* L. cultivated in the world. There are many cultivated varieties with flowers of a single color of white, pink, red, blue or violet. Some varieties have marginal variegation with off color parts.

The female parent used in the crossing of 'Sunsenerapi' is a clone of our own breeding line, *Senecio cruentus*, '8S-84e' (not patented in the United States), which is a compact, dome-shaped plant, 16 cm in height. The stems are thick, 8.0 mm in diameter, with no anthocyanin coloration. The leaf is in a serrated heart form and moderate yellow green. The leaf size is medium, approximately 12.0 cm long and approximately 12.5 cm wide. The capitulum is single flowered and has white ray florets with white disk florets having no marginal variegation. '8S-84e' has some scent.

The pollen parent used in the crossing of 'Sunsenerapi' is our breeding line (unnamed plant), *Senecio heritieri* (not patented or sold in the United States), which was originally introduced from England. *Senecio heritieri* is a high and dome-shaped plant, approximately 26 cm in height with abundant branching. Stems are approximately 5.1 mm in diameter, with no anthocyanin coloration. The leaf is in a serrated heart form and light yellowish green. The leaf size

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is small, approximately 5.5 cm long, approximately 6.3 cm wide. The capitulum is single flowered, having strong purple ray florets with vague white parts and strong reddish purple disk florets. *Senecio heritieri* has no scent.

5 The controlled crossing with a plant of *Senecio cruentus* '8S-84e' and a plant of *Senecio heritieri* was conducted at Omori-cho, Yokaichi-shi, Shiga, Japan in February, 1999. Seedlings from this crossing were grown since September, 1999. Four strains were selected in January 2000 among them in view
10 of flower color and earliness. After multiplication by tissue culture, the botanical characteristics of the selected new strains were tested in pots since September 2000, using parent varieties and 'Sunsenere' (U.S. Plant Patent Number 12162,) and 'Midget' (not patented in the United States) for
15 comparison, since 2000. As a result, one strain was selected. It is confirmed that the instant plant reproduces true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

 This new variety of *Senecio* plant was named 'Sunsenerapi' (*Senecio cruentus* x *Senecio heritieri*).

20 The new variety of *Senecio* plant was asexually reproduced by cuttings at Omori-cho, Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan.

Senecio cruentus, '8S-84e', and *Senecio heritieri* are presently maintained at Omori-cho, Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan.

25 In the following descriptions, the color-coding is in accordance with the Horticultural Colour Chart of the Royal Horticultural Society, London, England (R.H.S. Colour Chart).

 The botanical characteristics of the female parent plant *Senecio cruentus*, '8S-84e', used in the crossing of
30 'Sunsenerapi' are as follows.

Plant:

Growth habit - Dwarf compact

Height - Approximately 16 cm

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Stem:

Thickness - Approximately 8.0 mm

Color - Moderate yellowish green (near R.H.S. No. 139C)

Anthocyanin coloration - Absent

5 Branching - Fair

Pubescence - Sparse

Internode length at the middle of main stem -

Approximately 0.5 cm

Leaf:

10 Whole shape - Heart form with a swollen basal part, which is notched where the basal part of the blade attaches to the petiole.

Depth of concavity of leaf margin - Medium

Type of convexity - Acute

15 Apex shape - Obtuse

Base shape - Cordate

Degree of Undulation - Fair

Length - Approximately 12.0 cm

Width - Approximately 12.5 cm

20 Diameter of petiole - Approximately 5.0 mm

Length of petiole - Approximately 5.5 cm

Color of upper surface - Moderate yellow green (near R.H.S. No.137C)

25 Color of reverse surface - Grayish yellow green (near R.H.S. No.138B)

Anthocyanin coloration of reverse surface - Absent

Pubescence of upper surface - Present

Pubescence of reverse surface - Dense

Color of pubescence of reverse surface - White

30 Flower cluster (Gathering of corymbs):

Shape of flower cluster - Flat

Diameter of flower cluster - Approximately 20 cm

Height of flower cluster - Approximately 8 cm

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Capitula

- Transected shape of capitula - Flat
Diameter of capitula - Approximately 5.5 cm
Diameter of disk entire capitula - Approximately 1.2 cm
5 Color of ray floret - White (near R.H.S. No.155D)
Marginal variegation - Absent
Color of disk floret - White (near R.H.S. No.155D)
Ray floret length - Approximately 2.1 cm
Ray floret width - Approximately 1.0 cm
10 Shape of ray floret - Elliptical
Lengthwise warp of ray floret - Flat
Concavity of ray floret tip - Present
Shape of ray floret tip - Rounded
Number of ray floret - Approximately 13
15 Number of disk floret - Approximately 105
Diameter of pedicel of the first capitulum -
Approximately 1.6 mm
Length of pedicel of the first capitulum - Approximately
2.4 cm
20 Number of capitula per plant - approximately 75
Scent - Present
Phyllaries:
Length - Approximately 2.2 mm
Color - Moderate yellow green (near R.H.S. No.139C)
25 Anthocyanin coloration - Absent
Pistil:
Color - Light yellow (near R.H.S. No.11B)
Number - 1
Type - Style branches truncate (i.e., the top of the
30 style is separated in two and the shape of the top is
truncated)
Stamen:
Color - Brilliant yellow (near R.H.S. No.12B)
Type - 5 anthers are connate, with separated filaments

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Blooming period - January (Sowing in August)

Hardiness:

Cold - Good

Rain - Good

5 Heat - Good

Resistance:

Disease - Good

Insect - Good

10 The botanical characteristics of the male parent plant *Senecio heritieri* used in the crossing of 'Sunsenerapi' are as follows.

Plant:

Growth habit - Dwarf compact

Height - Approximately 26 cm

15 Stem:

Thickness - Approximately 5.1 mm

Color - Very pale green (near R.H.S. No.128D)

Anthocyanin coloration - Absent

Branching - Abundant

20 Type of primary lateral shoot - Branch from every node

Pubescence - Dense

Internode length at the middle of main stem -

Approximately 0.8 cm

Leaf:

25 Whole shape - Heart form with a swollen basal part, which is notched where the basal part of the blade attaches to the petiole.

Depth of concavity of leaf margin - Medium

Type of convexity - Acute

30 Apex shape - Obtuse

Base shape - Cordate

Degree of Undulation - Weak

Length - Approximately 5.5 cm

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- Width - Approximately 6.3 cm
Diameter of petiole - Approximately 4.2 mm
Length of petiole - Approximately 7.5 cm
Color of upper surface - Light yellowish green (near
5 R.H.S. No.136D)
Color of reverse surface - Very pale green (near R.H.S.
No.128D)
Anthocyanin coloration of reverse surface - Absent
Pubescence of upper surface - Dense
10 Pubescence of reverse surface - Dense
Color of pubescence of reverse surface - White
Flower cluster (Gathering of corymbs):
Shape of flower cluster - Uneven
Diameter of flower cluster - Approximately 18 cm
15 Height of flower cluster - Approximately 15 cm
Capitula:
Transected shape of capitula - Flat
Diameter of capitula - Approximately 4.8 cm
Diameter of entire disk - Approximately 0.9 cm
20 Color of ray floret - Strong purple (near R.H.S. No.81B)
Marginal variegation - Present
Diameter of off color part - Approximately 1.3 cm
Border of marginal variegation - Vague
Color of disk floret - Strong reddish purple (near
25 R.H.S.C.C. No.72A)
Ray floret length - Approximately 2.2 cm
Ray floret width - Approximately 0.4 cm
Shape of ray floret - Rectangular
Lengthwise warp of ray floret - Flat
30 Concavity of ray floret tip - Present
Shape of ray floret tip - Acute
Number of ray floret - Approximately 13
Number of disk floret - Approximately 110
Diameter of pedicel of the capitulum - Approximately 1.2

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mm

Length of pedicel of the capitulum - Approximately 2.5 cm

Number of capitula per plant - Approximately 35

Scent - Absent

5 Phyllaries:

Length - Approximately 3.1 mm

Color - Very pale green (near R.H.S. No.128D)

Anthocyanin coloration - Present

Pistil:

10 Color - Strong reddish purple (near R.H.S. No.72A)

Number - 1

Type - Style branches truncate (i.e., the top of the style is separated in two and the shape of the top is truncated)

15 Stamen:

Color - Strong reddish purple (near R.H.S. No.72A)

Type - 5 anthers are connate, with separated filaments

Blooming period - End of January (Sowing in August)

Hardiness:

20 Cold - Good

Rain - Good

Heat - Good

Resistance:

Disease - Good

25 Insect - Good

The botanical characteristics of a similar variety 'Sunsenere' (*Senecio cruentus* x *Senecio heritieri*) which was patented in the United States, used for examination as a comparison variety are as follows.

30 Plant:

Growth habit - Semi-dwarf erect

Height - Approximately 25 cm

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Stem:

Thickness - Approximately 5.0 mm

Color - Moderate yellowish green (near R.H.S. No.139C)

Anthocyanin coloration - Present in parts of stem, e.g.,
5 can be seen at the part of peduncle.

Degree of anthocyanin coloration - It is light grayish
olive (near R.H.S. No.197A) at the part wherein anthocyanin is
present, but it is moderate yellowish green (near R.H.S.
No.138C) at the part where anthocyanin is absent.

10 Branching - Abundant, i.e., approximately 9 to 11
branches

Type of primary lateral shoot - Branch from every node

Pubescence - Sparse

Internode length at the middle of main stem -
15 Approximately 1.0 cm

Leaf:

Whole shape - Heart form with a swollen basal part, which
is notched where the basal part of the blade attaches to the
petiole.

20 Depth of concavity of leaf margin - The maximum depth of
concavity measured from the average convexity peak height is
approximately 7 mm.

Type of convexity - Acute

Apex shape - Obtuse

25 Base shape - Cordate

Degree of Undulation - Weak

Length - Approximately 8.6 cm

Width - Approximately 10.3 cm

Diameter of petiole - Approximately 3.2 mm

30 Length of petiole - Approximately 9.0 cm

Color of upper surface - Moderate yellow green (near
R.H.S. No.137C)

Color of reverse surface - Moderate yellow green (near
R.H.S. No.138C)

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Anthocyanin coloration of reverse surface - Absent

Pubescence of upper surface - Dense

Pubescence of reverse surface - Dense

Color of pubescence of reverse surface - White

5 Flower cluster (Gathering of corymbs):

Shape of flower cluster - Uneven

Diameter of flower cluster - Approximately 34 cm

Height of flower cluster - Approximately 22 cm

Capitula

10 Transected shape of capitula - Flat

Diameter of capitula - Approximately 6.4 cm

Diameter of entire disk - Approximately 1.3 cm

Color of ray floret - Vivid reddish purple (near R.H.S.

No.78A)

15 Marginal variegation - Absent

Color of disk floret - Deep reddish purple (near R.H.S.

No.80A)

Ray floret length - Approximately 2.6 cm

Ray floret width - Approximately 0.8 cm

20 Shape of ray floret - Rectangular

Lengthwise warp of ray floret - Flat

Concavity of ray floret tip - Present

Shape of ray floret tip - Acute

Number of ray floret - Approximately 15-16

25 Number of disk floret - Approximately 130

Diameter of pedicel of the first capitulum -

Approximately 1.2 mm

Length of pedicel of the first capitulum - Approximately

3.3 cm

30 Number of capitula per plant - Approximately 88

Scent - Present

Phyllaries:

Length - Approximately 1.2 mm

Color - Very pale green (near R.H.S. No.130D)

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Anthocyanin coloration - Absent

Pistil:

Color - Vivid reddish purple (near R.H.S. No.80A)

Number - 1

- 5 Type - Style branches truncate (i.e., the top of the style is separated in two and the shape of the top is truncated)

Stamen:

Color - Vivid reddish purple (near R.H.S. No.80A)

- 10 Type - 5 anthers are connate, with separated filaments

Blooming period - Start at the end of November or early December (cutting in July)

Hardiness:

Cold - Good

- 15 Rain - Good

Heat - Good

Resistance:

Disease - Good

Insect - Good

- 20 The botanical characteristics of a similar variety 'Midget', used for examination as a comparison variety are as follows.

Plant:

Growth habit - Dwarf

- 25 Height - Approximately 14 cm

Stem:

Thickness - Approximately 5.6 mm

Color - Moderate yellow green (near R.H.S.C.C. No. 139C)

Anthocyanin coloration - Present

- 30 Degree of anthocyanin coloration - Medium

Branching - Fair

Pubescence - Dense

Internode length at the middle of main stem -

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Approximately 0.5 cm

Leaf:

Whole shape - Heart form with a swollen basal part, which is notched at where the basal part of the blade attaches to the petiole.

Depth of concavity of leaf margin - Medium

Type of convexity - Acute

Apex shape - Acute

Base shape - Cordate

Degree of Undulation - Fair

Length - Approximately 13.9 cm

Width - Approximately 10.3 cm

Diameter of petiole - Approximately 4.2 mm

Length of petiole - Approximately 4.7 cm

Color of upper surface - Grayish yellow green (near R.H.S. No.138A)

Color of reverse surface - Grayish yellow green (near R.H.S. No.138B)

Anthocyanin coloration of reverse surface - Absent

Pubescence of upper surface - Present

Pubescence of reverse surface - Dense

Color of pubescence of reverse surface - White

Flower cluster (Gathering corymbs):

Shape of flower cluster - Flat

Diameter of flower cluster - Approximately 22 cm

Height of flower cluster - Approximately 8 cm

Capitula:

Transected shape of capitula - Fairly closed

Diameter of capitula - Approximately 3.2 cm

Diameter of entire disk - Approximately 0.8 cm

Color of ray floret - Vivid reddish purple (near R.H.S. No.74A)

Marginal variegation - Absent

Color of disk floret - Strong reddish purple (near R.H.S.

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No.72A)

Ray floret length - Approximately 1.5 cm

Ray floret width - Approximately 0.8 cm

Shape of ray floret - Elliptical

5 Lengthwise warp of ray floret - Flat

Concavity of ray floret tip - Present

Shape of ray floret tip - Acute

Number of ray floret - Approximately 13

Number of disk floret - Approximately 86

10 Diameter of pedicel of the first capitulum -

Approximately 1.5 mm

Length of pedicel of the first capitulum - Approximately
2.5 cm

Number of capitula per plant - Approximately 180

15 Scent - Present

Phyllaries:

Length - Approximately 2.2 mm

Color - Moderate yellow green (near R.H.S. No.139C)

Anthocyanin coloration - Absent

20 Pistil:

Color - Strong reddish purple (near R.H.S. No.72A)

Number - 1

Type - Style branches truncate (i.e., the top of the
style is separated in two and the shape of the top is
25 truncated)

Stamen:

Color - Strong reddish purple (near R.H.S. No.72A)

Type - 5 anthers are connate, with separated filaments

Blooming period - January (Sowing in August)

30 Hardiness:

Cold - Good

Rain - Good

Heat - Good

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Resistance:

Disease - Good

Insect - Good

SUMMARY OF THE NEW VARIETY

5 'Sunsenerapi' is a dome-shaped plant with an average height of approximately 31.8 cm in the blooming period. There is a branch from every node and branching is abundant, i.e., approximately 9 to 11 branches. The stem is approximately 4.8 mm in diameter with light pubescences.

10 The leaves are small, approximately 13.9 cm long, approximately 9.7 cm wide. The leaves are shaped in a serrated heart form with a swollen basal part, which is notched where the basal part of the blade attaches to the petiole. The leaf color is moderate olive green, with no
15 anthocyanin coloration on the reverse side. Pubescence on both sides of leaf is dense. The petiole is approximately 10.0 cm long and approximately 3.4 mm in diameter.

20 The new variety has large flower clusters which are high and uneven in shape (i.e., the locations of the individual capitula forming the cluster are uneven or not flat). A flower cluster means a gathering of capitula in a plant. The capitulum is single flowered with no marginal variegation. The capitulum has a flat transected shape (i.e., when the capitulum opens, ray florets are flat when viewed from the
25 side). The capitula is approximately 6.7 cm in diameter, while the entire disk is approximately 1.3 cm in diameter. The ray florets are approximately 3.1 cm long and approximately 0.8 cm wide. The color of the ray floret is light purplish pink (near R.H.S. No.75C), while the color of
30 the disk florets are strong reddish purple (near R.H.S. No.77B). One capitulum has approximately 13 ray florets and approximately 167 disk florets. A ray floret has a pistil, but no stamen. A disk floret is tubular and has a pistil and

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a stamen formed by 5 connate anthers with separated filaments. There are approximately 155 capitula per plant. The length of phyllary is approximately 2.0 mm. The phyllary has no anthocyanin coloration. The pedicel is approximately 3.9 cm
5 long and approximately 1.2 mm in diameter. The flowers have some scent.

After cutting in July, it flowers at the end of the January in Japan. The blooming continues from January to May, if under appropriate control. By temperatures around
10 15°C, the individual bloom lasts two weeks. The flower buds grow one after another from the axil. The flower is not self-cleaning because florets remain attached in a wilted and dry state as the flower fully matures.

The new variety has moderate cold and heat tolerance.
15 The new variety does not die at around 0°C, but when frost occurs the cells can be necrosed resulting in the death of the plant. Usually, *Senecio cruentus* has a tendency of slightly reduced growth in a hot season, whereas the new variety has no problem in growing in the hot season.

20 The fertility of the new variety is low. Generally, *Senecio* genus plants have high fertility (i.e., bear many seeds per flower). In contrast, 'Sunsenerapi' bears no seed or very few seeds per capitulum. When no seed is formed, there is a part corresponding to a seed coat, which remains in
25 an immature state, i.e., without embryo and endosperm inside the immature seed coat.

The new variety, 'Sunsenerapi', differs from similar varieties, 'Sunsenere' and 'Midget', of the *Senecio* genus and from parent varieties *Senecio heritieri* and '8S-84e' in the
30 following points.

1. 'Sunsenerapi' is a high type plant, approximately 31.8 cm in height. 'Sunsenere' is a high type plant, approximately 25 cm in height. 'Midget' is a compact type

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plant, approximately 14 cm in height. The pollen parent *Senecio heritieri* is a semi-compact type plant, approximately 26 cm in height and female plant '8S-84e' is a compact type plant, approximately 16 cm in height.

5 2. The capitulum of 'Sunsenerapi' has light purplish pink ray florets, strong reddish purple disk florets and no marginal variegation, while 'Sunsenere' has vivid reddish purple ray florets, deep reddish purple disk florets and no marginal variegation. 'Midget' has vivid reddish purple ray
10 florets, strong reddish purple disk florets and no marginal variegation. The female parent '8S-84e' has white ray florets, white disk florets and no marginal variegation. The pollen parent *Senecio heritieri* has strong purple ray florets, strong reddish purple disk florets and white marginal part.

15 3. The petiole length of 'Sunsenerapi' is longer than that of 'Sunsenere' or 'Midget'.

 4. 'Sunsenerapi' has more pubescence of stems than 'Sunsenere' and fewer than 'Midget'.

20 5. The blooming term of 'Sunsenerapi' is longer than 'Midget'.

 6. The fertility of 'Sunsenerapi' is lower than 'Midget'.

The plant height and flower color are most distinctive characteristics of this new variety, 'Sunsenerapi'.

25 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Fig.1 is a photograph giving a partial view of the new variety of *Senecio* plant named 'Sunsenerapi' planted in a pot.

Fig.2 is a photograph of capitula of the new variety of *Senecio* plant named 'Sunsenerapi'.

30 DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The botanical characteristics of this new and distinct variety of *Senecio* plant named 'Sunsenerapi' at an age of 7

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months after cutting in July are as follows (i.e., these botanical characteristics were observed in January of the year following the cutting with the new variety planted in a 15 cm pot and grown in a greenhouse, the lowest temperature of which was controlled at 12°C in winter).

Plant:

Growth habit - Semi-dwarf erect

Height - Approximately 31.8 cm

Spread - Approximately 35 cm

Stem:

Lateral stem length - Approximately 12.0 cm

Lateral stem diameter - Approximately 3.5 mm

Color - Very pale green (near R.H.S. No.130D)

Anthocyanin coloration - Absent

Branching - Abundant, i.e., approximately 9 to 11 branches

Type of primary lateral shoot - Branch from every node

Pubescence - Medium

Internode length at the middle of the main stem -

Approximately 1.8 cm

Leaf:

Whole shape - Heart form with a swollen basal part, which is notched where the basal part of the blade attaches to the petiole.

Depth of concavity of leaf margin - The maximum depth of concavity measured from the average convexity peak height is approximately 5 mm.

Type of convexity - Acute

Apex shape - Acute

Base shape - Cordate

Margin - Palmately lobed, crenate and weakly undulated

Length - Approximately 13.9 cm

Width - Approximately 9.7 cm

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Diameter of petiole - Approximately 3.4 mm

Length of petiole - Approximately 10.0 cm

Petiole color - Near R.H.S. 145B

5 Color of upper surface - Moderate olive green (near
R.H.S. No.146A)

Color of reverse surface - Moderate yellow green (near
R.H.S. No.147D)

Anthocyanin coloration of reverse surface - Absent

Pubescence of upper surface - Sparse

10 Pubescence of reverse surface - Dense

Color of pubescence of reverse surface - White

Flower cluster (Gathering of corymbs):

Shape of flower cluster - Round

Diameter of flower cluster - Approximately 34 cm

15 Height of flower cluster - Approximately 22 cm

Capitula:

Transected shape of capitula - Flat

Diameter of capitula - Approximately 6.7 cm

Diameter of entire disk - Approximately 1.3 cm

20 Color of ray floret (upper) - Light purplish pink (near
R.H.S. No.75C); color of ray floret (lower) - near R.H.S. 76C

Marginal variegation - Absent

Color of disk floret - Strong reddish purple (near R.H.S.
No.77B)

25 Ray floret length - Approximately 3.1 cm

Ray floret width - Approximately 0.8 cm

Ray floret margin - Entire

Base shape of ray floret - Obtuse

Shape of ray floret - Long oblong

30 Lengthwise warp of ray floret - Flat

Concavity of ray floret tip - Present

Shape of ray floret tip - Acute

Number of ray floret - Approximately 13

Number of disk floret - Approximately 167

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Diameter of pedicel of the first capitulum -
Approximately 1.2 mm

Length of pedicel of the first capitulum - Approximately
3.9 cm

5 Color - Near R.H.S. 152B

Number of capitula per plant - Approximately 155

Scent - Present

Disk floret:

Length - Approximately 8.5 mm

10 Width - Approximately 2.0 mm

Shape - Tubular trumpet shape.

Phyllaries:

Number of phyllaries - Approximately 14

Length - Approximately 2.0 mm

15 Color - Moderate yellow green (near R.H.S. No.139C)

Anthocyanin coloration - Absent

Shape - Lanceolate

Apex - Acute

Margin - Entire

20 Base - Fused

Bud:

Diameter - Approximately 6.0 mm

Length - Approximately 5.5 mm

Shape - Globose

25 Color - Near R.H.S. 144B

Pistil:

Color - Vivid purple (near R.H.S. No.82A)

Number - 1 per ray and disk floret

30 Type - Style branches truncate (i.e., the top of the
style is separated in two and the shape of the top is
truncated)

Stamen:

Color - Dark yellow (near R.H.S. No.153B)

Type - A disk floret has 5 connate anthers with

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separated filaments. Ray floret has no stamen.

Amount of pollen - Scarce

Pollen color - Near R.H.S. 21C

5 Blooming period - Start at the end of January (cutting in
July)

Time to flower - Approximately 6 months

Hardiness:

Cold - Good

Rain - Good

10 Heat - Good

Resistance:

Disease - Good

Insect - Good

15 The new variety and *Senecio cruentus* have similar
resistance to powdery mildew, leaf spot, aphid, whitefly, and
thrips. The new variety, 'Sunsenerapi', is a tall type plant
and most suitable for flower potting.

20 This new and distinct variety of *Senecio* plant named
'Sunsenerapi' was asexually reproduced by cutting at Omori-
cho, Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan and the homogeneity and
stability thereof were confirmed.